ered under this regimen. As a preventive measure BCG vaccination is being to the children of the age group 0-1 years.

To educate the masses, about T.B. disease its prevention, stress is being given on health education through T.V. and Radio spots, advertisements in newspaper and booklets/pamphlets.

**Excavation of Stones in Uttar Pradesh**

[*Translation*]

733. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have banned excavation of stones from forest land in Uttar Pradesh to check environment pollution;

(b) if so, whether this has resulted in loss of revenue and thousands of people have been rendered jobless; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is some insignificant loss of revenue and employment opportunities to local people on account of ban on excavation of stone from forest areas. This loss is, however, more than compensated for as banning excavation of stone forest areas helps in protecting the forest from denudation and also checking environmental pollution.

(c) The Mines Department of Uttar Pradesh sanctions leases for excavation o stones on Gram Samaj (Community Lands which generates revenue to the Government and employment to the local people.

**Promotion of Tourism Through Festivals**

[*English*]

734. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prepared a list of festivals with a view to promote tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the names of these festivals;

(c) the facilities being provided by the Union Government to the respective State Governments in this regard; and

(d) the effect of this scheme to promote tourism so far?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). Yes Sir. A list of festivals prepared by the Department is given in the statement.

(c) Central financial assistance for promotion of festivals, is extended to State Governments on the basis of specific proposals received from them, subject to availability of funds and inter se priorities.

(d) Promotion of such Indian fairs and festivals enhances the awareness of the country's cultural heritage and increases tourist arrivals to destinations where the festivals are held.